

## Can You Handle Liberty?

### I. Introduction:

- A. We should know that we are under the perfect law of liberty (**James 1:25; 2:12**).
1. As the wording suggests, the law we live under is not a burdensome law (**I John 5:1-3**).
  2. In Christ, things are just much more simple than they were under the Law of Moses (**Matthew 11:27-30** and **Acts 15:1-10**).
- B. We want to stand fast in the liberty that we have in Christ (**Galatians 5:1**).
1. Yet, that does not mean we are free from accountability (**II Corinthians 5:10**).
  2. Even in matters wherein something is lawful, that doesn't always mean we should/can do it (**I Corinthians 6:12; 10:23-24**).
  3. To turn to the flesh, to satisfy carnal desires, is contrary to the purpose of being in Christ (**Romans 8:1-8**).

### II. Body: The Law Was Given Because Man Transgressed, Couldn't Handle Liberty, Needed Fenced In (**Galatians 3:19** and **I Timothy 1:8-10**).

- A. We can see in the first century that Christians struggled with freedom in the grace of Christ (**Romans 6:14-16**).
1. So, we can see instructions given to reign things in (**I Corinthians 11:16-22; 11:34**).
  2. Yet, some went too far by creating unjust laws (**I Timothy 4:1-5**).
  3. Some went too far in taking the place of lawgiver (**James 4:11-12**).
  4. There are enemies of liberty (**Galatians 2:1-5; 6:12-13**).
  5. Liberty can be misused to do wrong (**I Peter 2:16**).
- B. A law does not only need to be made because of sin. Consider the matter of maturity (**I Corinthians 13:11; 14:20**)?
1. Think about parents and children (**Proverbs 29:15**).
    - a. Aren't rules put in place for younger children that ease and eventually cease to exist as they age (i.e. crossing streets)?
    - b. The same is true for Christians. Think about matters of conscience and the difference between the mature and immature Christian (**I Corinthians 8:9-12**).
  2. It is an indisputable fact that those who are spiritually immature lack the ability to discern good from evil (**Hebrews 5:11-14**).
  3. We have to know how to use our liberties without abusing those liberties (**I Corinthians 7:31**).
- C. Search and try "our ways" (**Lamentations 3:40**).
1. The Lord says we are to grow (**Ephesians 4:15** and **I Peter 2:1-2**), but He doesn't outline a specific route to growth. What are you doing to grow?

- a. Rightly divide the Scriptures is the normal, quick answer (**II Timothy 2:15**). They searched daily is a quick answer too (**Acts 17:10-11**). What, specifically, though?
  - b. What about application of that information you study (**Luke 6:46**)?
  - c. What if studying is getting you nowhere (**II Timothy 3:7**)?
  - d. What about relevant study (**Titus 3:9**)?
2. The Lord says to assemble (**Hebrews 10:23-25**) on the first day of the week (**Acts 20:7**). He gives us liberty to decide how long, how many songs, etc.
- a. What if we use the liberty to decide what is expedient for us and end up shorting Him (**Mark 12:30**)?
  - b. Jesus, in all things, is supposed to have the “preeminence” [to be first] (**Colossians 1:18**).
3. The Lord says brethren are to serve on another (**Galatians 5:13**).
- a. Isn't there balance in bearing one another's burdens and individual responsibility (**Galatians 6:1-5**)?
  - b. What about the strong bearing the weak (**Romans 15:1-3** and **I Thessalonians 5:14**)?
    - i. Isn't there a limit (**Romans 14:1**)?
    - ii. Doesn't there have to be give and take (**Romans 12:10** and **Hebrews 3:13**)?
    - iii. It's not wrong to be busy holding up others (**Matthew 25:36-40**). Yet, what about exhaustion (**Galatians 6:9**)?
4. The Lord says we should love life and see good days (**I Peter 3:10**) and Jesus shows the need for leisure (**Mark 6:31**).
- a. What if we want to “take it easy” and such leads to us neglecting our responsibilities (**Proverbs 24:30-34**)?
  - b. What if our choices in leisure cause us to be tempted (**Mark 14:38**)?
  - c. What if our choices in enjoying this life brings shame on our Lord (**Romans 2:24** and **I Timothy 5:14**)?
  - d. What if our leisure causes us to be unprepared for the coming of the Lord (**Matthew 24:35-25:13**)?
5. The Lord says be angry and sin not (**Ephesians 4:26**).
- a. What if the liberty to become angry leads you to get angry quickly as you haven't sought to quench it (**Proverbs 14:17**, **Ecclesiastes 7:9**, and **James 1:19-20**)?
  - b. What if that liberty to be angry turns you into an angry person (**Proverbs 29:22**)?

III. Conclusion: While we have liberty in Christ, the fact that we are under a law (again; **Galatians 6:2**) means we have to be doers of that law (**Romans 2:13**)!